



## BIKEWAYS, TRAILS, PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

# CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

## Bikeways, Trails, Park and Recreation Master Plan

June 22, 2016 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

### Workshop Summary

On June 22, 2016 the Bikeways, Trails, Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) project team held a workshop with the Morgan Hill City Council (Council). The team presented the project scope and schedule as well as key themes from community and stakeholder outreach. Staff from MIG and the City presented key ideas, issues and policy questions to the Council and facilitated a conversation guided by a set of discussion questions.

A summary of Council comments and direction is below, organized by topic area. Public comments are included at the end of this document.

### Parks

#### General Comments

- It's important to maintain existing parks and facilities before creating new ones
- Acquiring land should be the priority, since it is a finite resource that will only increase in cost
- The Council has provided direction that a very strong plan is needed for growth areas in the NE part of the City and this should include a community park and/or community center

- Focus on the inclusive playground and making that a reality. Seek grants and consider how the project can be phased to lower initial capital costs.

## **Neighborhood and Community Parks**

- HOA parks do not seem to be well used
- The City should provide parkland for its residents and not rely on HOAs and other private providers
- A new community park on the east side of the city makes sense
- A new community park should be carefully sited and accessible by as many neighborhoods as possible
- The size of the park will depend on the availability of land
- The popularity of the pop-up park in downtown demonstrates that there is demand for new and improved parks
- Think about what made the pop-up park downtown so successful and replicate those elements at all sites

## **Park Amenities**

- Adding shade is important, but challenging
- Landscaping can provide shade
- In theory, users of neighborhood parks should be able to use restrooms at their homes nearby but restrooms are important for community parks
- There is concern about the cost of restroom maintenance

- Council is interested in seeing new, innovative models of public restrooms and is open to experimenting with new types
- Shade should be a higher priority than restrooms

## Regional Sports Facilities

### General Comments

- All facilities need to benefit local residents first
- Council would like to better understand how revenue from regional facilities can be captured and invested in other local amenities
- Council supports studying the economic impacts of existing facilities, including spillover benefits to the community
- There is a need for more information about how regional sports facilities can spur private investment and how they impact local economies. Sunnyvale and Pleasanton have facilities that could be studied.

### Diamond Fields in SE Quadrant

- The Council is in favor of moving ahead with plans for the new ballfields
- Confirm the interest and commitment of local teams and organizations
- Ensure local access regardless of who runs the facility

### Sand Volleyball

- More information is needed about maintenance needs for sand courts

## Villa Mira Monte

- The Council is in favor of making this site and its facilities part of the City system
- The details of the partnership will matter greatly and it is important to have very clear roles and responsibilities
- Protecting and preserving the city's heritage should be a stated goal of the Council
- A subcommittee of the PRC could be formed to work with the Historical Society

## Bikeways and Trails

- It would be ideal to identify an impact fee or other funding source for bikeways and trails that doesn't compete with streets and vehicles

## Public Comments

- The land near El Toro that is shown as public open space should be renamed to specify that it is publicly-owned but not accessible to all
- The intent of the land donor of Silveira Lake was to create a fishing hole for children; perhaps this could be incorporated into the new plans
- Consider whether Morgan Hill could be the future home of the San Jose Giants
- There are ongoing conflicts between drivers and cyclists and many young cyclists seem to be replicating behavior of professional riders

## **Comments received by email:**

### BIKEWAYS AND TRAILS

- Need to add and consider bike routes to Coe Park and Harvey Bear Park.

### PARKS

- Need to immediately address unlocking parking lots to public schools on holidays, weekends and summers (i.e. Nordstrom) to allow public safer access to school recreational facilities. May be done pursuant to a joint use agreement or otherwise.
- Need to consider installing elevated safety video cameras tied to the police department at all parks with signs advising the public of the cameras for the safety of young mothers and young children, and to reduce incidents of vandalism, and to protect the City.
- Need to place signs with emergency contact information, phone numbers, etc... at all parks.

### FACILITIES

#### Regional Sports Facilities

- Need to make sure all non-profits are in good standing with the Department of Corporations AND the Department of Charitable Institutions, or they are likely really “for profit” organizations, paying high salaries to controlling members/employees, and charging higher rates than necessary to our MH citizens to use their own facilities that their tax dollars have paid for. The higher rates are just going to pay the owners salaries and benefits.

- Non-resident individuals and organizations should pay more to use our facilities.
- Residents and resident organizations should pay less.
- Organizations paying owners who operate or use City facilities (as compared to all volunteer Boy Scout troops, flower clubs, or other completely volunteer organizations) should pay more because they are making money for themselves by using our facilities at low rates and then paying themselves. The higher rates they should be paying would reduce the rates for all volunteer/non-profit residents. Moving to this policy would benefit our MH citizens.
- The City should consider taking back over the management of the OSC, as the P & R Dept likely has the infrastructure in place to manage and economies of scale to manage that facility at relatively low cost at this time.

#### Sand Volleyball

- The City should conduct a demand and cost/benefit study first to determine the actual demand for Sand Volleyball Tournaments in Morgan Hill with its geographically isolated user population, as compared to other venues that might be experiencing demand but are really serving a much larger local population.
- Then the City should build maybe two sand volleyball courts near the aquatics center and see what the actual demand is, and what issues surface regarding the sand volleyball courts in a controlled environment from a maintenance and management standpoint.

#### Aquatic Facility

- City should also explore a joint use agreement with Sobrato High School.

#### Diamond Fields

- I think that Diamond Fields should be managed by the City allowing the City to achieve greater economies of scale and uniformity of management and use.

#### Villa Mira Monte

- The City should partner with MHHS to develop an historical archive for the City of MH including pictures and documents that reflect the history of MH and the important milestones in its growth. These pictures and documents could be displayed throughout the City facilities and at Villa Mira Monte.

#### Changes to existing parks and facilities

- The development of a more vibrant use of the Friendly Inn would help improve the use of the facility as well as the entire area.
- Continue to improve senior use of facilities. Developing additional senior use at the Friendly Inn would improve the facility and surrounding area, and increase overall use.

#### Senior Services

- No further comment

#### PROGRAMMING

- Increase senior and community programming at Galvan Park. This would improve the GP environment and increase citizen use.

- Develop Bocce Ball and Lawn Bowling Leagues to increase community use of facilities, including Galvan Park.
- Produce free country and blue grass live music (and other similar events) at Galvan Park to attract seniors and other community members.